

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 EUR-25 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SAB-01

ACDA-19 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 FEAE-00 EB-11 AGR-20

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-03 AF-10 /220 W

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R 190844Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3231

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4534

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO XF

SUBJECT: KING'S PRESS CONFERENCE SEPT 17: ARAB AFFAIRS

1. KING HASSAN TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM AND PALESTINIANS DURING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN SEPT 17 PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO OTHER ISSUES (SEPTELS). OF INTEREST WAS KING'S EMPHASIS ON POINT THAT ANY ME SETTLEMENT MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT BOTH US AND USSR, AND THAT NEITHER ONE NOR THE OTHER COULD BE IGNORED. THIS COMMENT WAS IN CONTEXT OF EXPRESSING VIEWS ON PALESTINIANS, KING GOING ON TO SAY HE THOUGHT A DIALOGUE SHOULD OPEN. NOTING PALESTINIANS HAD ALREADY STARTED TO OPEN ONE WITH THE USSR, KING UNDERLINED THAT HE COULD ONLY ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO SAME WITH THE US. HOW TO GO ABOUT THIS
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WAS THEIR CONCERN, BUT THEY SHOULD "GO TO IT."

2. KING, IN ADDITION, EMPHASIZED HE DID NOT SEE ANY PARALLEL BETWEEN SAHARA AND PALESTINIAN QUESTIONS, AND DID NOT BELIEVE ARAB EFFORTS WOULD BE DISPERSED BY HAVING TWO MATTERS RAISED AT ONE TIME. (HE SAID HE WAS NOT PUTTING SAHARA ON ARAB SUMMIT AGENDA, SO AS TO AVOID EMBARRASSING ANY ARAB STATE, ALTHOUGH ISSUE WOULD NO DOUBT ARISE.) KING SUGGESTED THAT PALESTINIANS, WHOM TOO MANY ARAB COUNTRIES WANTED TO HELP DIRECTLY, SHOULD CHOOSE 3 OR 4 STATES TO ACT AS EXCLUSIVE ADVOCATES BEFORE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL GROUPS.

3. ELABORATING ON UPCOMING ARAB SUMMIT IN RABAT, KING THOUGHT ARABS SHOULD TAKE MORE OR LESS DEFINITIVE DECISION ON THEIR FRIENDSHIPS WITH EUROPE, US, AND USSR, TO AVOID CONTRADICTORY CURRENTS AFFECTING HOMOGENEITY OF ARAB WORLD. HE NOTED THAT DESPITE OCTOBER WAR AND SMALL TERRITORIAL CHANGES, ME SITUATION REMAINED ONE OF NO WAR, NO PEACE, WHICH NOT IN INTEREST OF ARABS. HE COMMENTED THAT MOMENTUM OF GENEVA SHOULD HAVE BEEN PURSUED AFTER DISENGAGEMENT, AND WOULD NOW HAVE TO BE STARTED UP AGAIN.

4. ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, KING WAS AT PAINS TO SHOW SYMPATHY FOR UNDERDEVELOPED AFRICAN STATES. IN ADDITION TO OFFERING CONCESSIONARY TERMS ON PHOSPHATES (RABAT 4515 ON SAHARA), KING APPEALED TO AFRICANS NOT TO JUDGE ARABS TOO HASTILY. HE RECALLED THAT DESPITE MOROCCO'S PARTICIPATION AND SIGNIFICANT LOSSES IN OCTOBER WAR, MOROCCO WAS PAYING FELLOW ARABS FULL PRICES FOR OIL. HE EXCUSED ARABS BY NOTING THEY HAD HAD TO PAY IMMEDIATE CASH OF SEVERAL BILLION DOLLARS FOR ARMS AND THAT PROGRESSIVELY GREATER ARAB CONTROL OVER OIL COMPANIES WOULD PERMIT PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF CERTAIN AREAS. THIS WOULD BE ONE OF PRINCIPAL ITEMS ON ARAB SUMMIT AGENDA, KING PROMISED AFRICANS.

5. COMMENT: KING'S POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD US ROLE IN AREA WAS CLEARLY REFLECTED IN HIS REMARKS ON ARAB ISSUES. ONE PRINCIPAL THRUST WAS TO URGE PALESTINIANS
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TO OPT FOR DIALOGUE WITH US, NOT JUST USSR. IN MENTIONING NEED FOR ARAB SUMMIT TO TAKE DECISION ON FRIENDSHIP WITH US AND OTHERS, IMPLICATION WAS THAT SUCH DECISION SHOULD BE A POSITIVE ONE. EMPHASIS THROUGHOUT WAS, AS EXPECTED, ON PEACEFUL MEANS TOWARD ME SETTLEMENT.
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